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The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
1 APRIL 1968

1. North Vietnam

[redacted] Hanoi reports the Vietnamese Communists are organizing a broad offensive to take place in South Vietnam this summer. [redacted] Hanoi expects the offensive to set the stage for a settlement on Communist terms and that the US will accept an "armistice" by early next year. [redacted] report that a special mobilization of manpower is under way in North Vietnam to provide large numbers of new forces for the South.

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What appear to be eight more infiltration groups were discovered [redacted] over the weekend, raising the number of units en route through central North Vietnam in March [redacted] More than 17,000 troops could be involved.

2. South Vietnam

Vice President Ky, chief of the Joint General Staff Vien, and at least three of the four corps commanders plan to submit their resignations en masse unless Thieu resolves certain doubts and agrees to consult them closely on policy, according to [redacted] These doubts include rumors that Thieu is embarking on wholesale personnel changes which would revive the influence of the southern Dai Viet party at the expense of the military hierarchy.

The commanders are already disturbed by Thieu's recent provincial appointments which they see as a substitution of Thieu's followers for their own protégés or as creating unrest among province chiefs and military officers in general.

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3. Panama

The Supreme Court will reconvene today to decide on the constitutionality of the Assembly's impeachment of Robles. No matter how the court rules, the situation is likely to deteriorate further.

The people around Arnulfo Arias are now working on more legal moves against the government, and are also keeping pressure on Robles and the National Guard through demonstrations and disorders. If the court invalidates the impeachment, Arias and company are prepared to impeach the court.

Pro-Arias demonstrators plan to be in the streets "to create an atmosphere of tension" while the court is deliberating. Influential families on both sides are becoming more and more convinced that a takeover by the guard is the only solution.

4. Brazil

Extremists have taken over the leadership of a major student demonstration planned for today in Rio. Large antigovernment demonstrations already have been held in most key Brazilian cities since the police killed a youth in Rio on Thursday.

The student leaders-[redacted]-plan to focus on the "repressive military dictatorship," but the US will also be a target. There is widespread sympathy for the students' cause.

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There is already some evidence of military dissatisfaction with the government's failure to crack down on the students. If students and police clash again, military pressure on the government will probably build quickly.

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5. Cyprus

Prospects for talks between representatives of the Greek and Turkish communities are better now than at any time since the outbreak of violence in late 1963. Preliminary contacts between the two groups have been aided by the steady decrease in tension since last November. Much distrust remains, however, and no easy solution to the basic problems is in sight.

6. Egypt

Nasir, in a speech to the nation on Saturday, outlined a "program of action" to bring about political reform. We doubt that it will amount to much.

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